

is great, but it has also caused a logjam of trains waiting on rail lines and blocking crossings, sometimes for hours on end. It was reported that last week near the small community of Byron in my district, a train blocked a state highway for five hours and could not move the fifty feet to clear the crossing because the crew had reached its maximum hours of service. A new crew was required before the train could be moved.

I recognize that the rail system is very complex and there are many factors that go into trains being held and crossings being blocked. But I still struggle with the fact that motorists, including emergency services, were forced to wait five hours for a train to move fifty feet. Part of the benefit in moving goods by rail is to relieve congestion on the roads, not increase it. The goal of this legislation is to provide a common sense solution to scenarios such as the instance in Byron.

While I realize these are the waning days of the 113th Congress, I hope that by at least introducing this legislation now, it will continue a discussion here in Congress and with the rail industry and rail labor on this common sense solution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on September 15, 2014, I missed one recorded vote on the House "floor." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 497.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HBCU HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Historic Preservation Program. I have always studied history, and taught it at the high school level. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have worked to support historic preservation efforts which preserve and protect our nation's treasured institutions. The bill I am introducing today would continue a tremendously successful program which has been widely supported by many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

HBCUs represent a unique and critical aspect of African American history in the United States. Many of these institutions are over 100 years old, but this history lives on today as these colleges and universities continue to thrive. In 1996, \$29 million was originally provided in grants to preserve historic sites on HBCU campuses. In 1998, at the request of the Congressional Black Caucus, the GAO conducted a study to identify and project the cost of preserving and protecting threatened historic buildings and sites on the more than 100 HBCU campuses in the United States.

The GAO identified 712 historic sites which would require \$755 million to successfully preserve. Truly the costs of this project are challenging, but we have made progress. Responding to the GAO study, in 2002, Congress authorized an additional \$60 million for six years.

I have seen the results firsthand. Several historic buildings at Allen, Claflin, and South Carolina State Universities, and Voorhees and Benedict Colleges in my district have been successfully restored. These structures are icons on their respective campuses and in their communities. They are living testaments to African American and South Carolina history. Arnett Hall at Allen University was designed by an African American architect and built by the students themselves in 1891. If this building were lost, that link to the past would be severed, never to be revived again. Through a grant from this program, it has been stabilized, restored and is being preserved. These results are not limited to South Carolina. Since its origin in 1996, 59 institutions have benefited in 20 different states.

While there are many success stories, the need is still great. Sites identified by the GAO are still threatened and are continuing to deteriorate. The authorization for this program has expired, and it has not received appropriations since the Recovery Act in 2009. Congress must not abandon the progress we have made. This bill would reauthorize the program for ten years at the same funding level. It will not by itself reach the total funding needed for every threatened site, but it will revive this initiative and continue to make progress preserving these historic campuses. I have been privileged to receive strong support from my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and many other members of both parties for these efforts, and I look forward to working with all of them to extend this vital program and preserve our Nation's history.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS BIORUBBER PROCESS RESEARCH CENTER IN MESA, AZ

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the grand opening of the Bridgestone Americas Biorubber Process Research Center in Mesa, Arizona on September 22, 2014.

I'm honored to represent this facility, which will serve as a research and development center for advancing the use of the desert-based Guayule plant—native to the Southwestern United States—as an alternative natural rubber source for Bridgestone products.

This research will help further the development of a more diverse domestic, sustainable and renewable source for natural rubber that will decrease the reliance on rubber trees.

The Biorubber facility will be supplied with guayule from the nearby Bridgestone Guayule Agro Operations Farm in Eloy, AZ which is expected to submit its first sample for research for evaluation by mid-year 2015.

The Biorubber facility will provide significant economic benefits to my district with 40 high-

skilled research and technician jobs, in addition to the almost 500 Bridgestone employees already in the state.

The opening of this facility further underscores Bridgestone's ongoing commitment to technological and environmental innovation, and adds to its reputation as a leader in corporate environmental sustainability.

Again, I would like to congratulate Bridgestone Americas on the grand opening of its new Biorubber Process Research Center.

I am proud that Bridgestone is an integral part of our community, and I'm pleased to commemorate this significant development in Arizona's 5th District.

SISTERS OF MERCY CELEBRATE 120 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a momentous occasion—the 120 years of service the Sisters of Mercy have graciously provided the City of Laredo, Texas. For over a century, these Sisters have faithfully contributed to the health and wellbeing of the residents within my hometown.

Three Sisters arrived in Laredo in 1894 with the mission of building the city's first hospital. They came from Dublin, Ireland, and less than one month after their arrival, they accomplished their goal and opened a medical facility with six rooms and twelve beds. Though they were not formally trained in nursing, they committed to learning in order to serve the needy of Laredo. As the population and health care needs grew, Sisters of Mercy expanded to new buildings to care for as many Laredoans as possible.

Over the last 120 years, nearly 120 Sisters have faithfully served in Laredo, many of whom served for decades at a time. There are presently five sisters who serve the Laredo community: Sister Maria Luisa Vera, who recently celebrated her 50th jubilee and is President of Mercy Ministries; Sister Rosemary Welsh, who has served Laredo for 22 years and is the Executive Director at Casa de Misericordia and the Director of Outreach Services at Mercy Clinic; Sister Olivia Obregon, who has served for a total of 33 years in various nursing supervisory positions; Sister Kathleen Tinnel, who has served Laredo for 12 years both as a pediatric nurse and a minister; and the newest Sister—Sister Beth Yoest—who is on the faculty at St. Peter Memorial School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Sisters of Mercy for commendably caring for the citizens of Laredo throughout the past 120 years. I thank you for this time.

SUPPORTING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today with the people of the Republic of

China (Taiwan) as they celebrate their upcoming National Day on October 10th.

I visited Taiwan as a state legislator and often welcome its representatives to Las Vegas and to my Washington, DC office. With the expansion of the Visa Waiver Program to include Taiwan, we hope to continue to welcome more Taiwanese tourists and business travelers to Las Vegas.

Nevada's First Congressional District is home to a vibrant Taiwanese American Community that enhances our local culture.

I am proud to consider myself a friend of Taiwan. The relationship between our two nations has been strong over the past century. This mutually beneficial partnership relationship has strengthened and enriched our economic, political, and cultural ties.

It should be fostered and promoted in the coming years.

I congratulate the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their National Day and join them in their celebration.

TRIBUTE TO FLATWOODS RED HAT TULIPS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips, a local chapter of the National Red Hat Society, an organization of women who provide community service in the town of Flatwoods and throughout Braxton County, West Virginia.

The Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips were founded in 2005 and have spent the past nine years organizing events and volunteering to make their community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. The impact of these women has been felt by an array of causes, including well known groups such as The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, March of Dimes, Bikers for Babies, and The American Heart Association. In addition, the ladies have held fundraisers for local organizations like the Braxton County Animal Shelter and the local Lions Club, which helps provide eye exams and glasses to children. Every year in May, the ladies host a candlelight service at the local Hospice Memorial to honor members of the community who have passed away.

Just next month, the Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips will host an event benefitting the local animal shelter's Capture, Neuter, and Release Program, which aims at combating the stray dog and cat problem in the community. They remain an active group through the year and meet regularly at different restaurants in the area and can often be found visiting the Braxton County Senior Center in Sutton.

The Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips are led by Queen Mum Judy Norvell and Vice Queen Joyce Black.

Mr. Speaker, Flatwoods, Braxton County, and indeed the State of West Virginia, owe the Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips many thanks for their hard work and dedication to the community and their neighbors. I am honored to represent such a distinguished group of women in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO EDUARDO EURNEKIAN

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Eduardo Eurnekian, a truly remarkable man.

As Chairman of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF), Mr. Eurnekian has made a significant contribution to preserving and promoting the extraordinary legacy of Raoul Wallenberg, the WWII Swedish diplomat who is credited with saving scores of Jews in Budapest from the horrors of the Holocaust. Raoul Wallenberg disappeared on January 17, 1945 when he went to meet with members of the Soviet Army to discuss the future of the Jewish refugees in Hungary. Imprisoned by the Stalinist regime along with his loyal driver, Vilmos Langfelder, his fate and whereabouts, now 70 years later, remain shrouded in mystery.

In 1981, our nation honored Raoul Wallenberg by making him an Honorary Citizen of the United States, only the second person to be so honored (following Winston Churchill). More recently, on July 9, 2014, the U.S. Congress presented him the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his humanitarian service.

Under the leadership of Mr. Eurnekian and in collaboration with IRWF founder Baruch Tenenbaum (who was honored by this House on September 10, 2003), the IRWF has worked tirelessly to preserve and promote the legacy of the hero who became a victim himself. It has been reaching out to tens of thousands of young people around the world, instilling Raoul's spirit of civic courage and solidarity in their hearts and minds.

Just recently, Mr. Eurnekian spearheaded the events celebrating the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg. Dozens of Members of Congress had the opportunity to learn about the IRWF and to pay tribute to its outstanding work at a luncheon ceremony prior to the moving award presentation in the Capitol Rotunda. Mr. Eurnekian was there presented with the "Guardian of the Rescuer's Legacy," a magnificent statue symbolizing peace and solidarity that was created by the renowned artist Frank Meisler.

In an effort to raise global awareness of Raoul Wallenberg, and to pay tribute to world leaders who treasure the values of the Swedish hero, Mr. Eurnekian and Mr. Tenenbaum have bestowed the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Medal upon many distinguished individuals throughout the world. These include the former British PM Gordon Brown, the former President of Slovakia Ivo Gasparovic, the President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso, the former Secretary of Pope John XXIII Cardinal Loris Capovilla, the legendary British savior Sir Nicholas Winton, the President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias, the Former Minister of Justice of Canada and long-time Wallenberg supporter and prominent human rights activist Professor Irwin Cotler.

The IRWF strives to raise awareness of Raoul Wallenberg's legacy and fate, urging international leaders to raise their voices. President Obama did so in his video address

of April 19, 2012 entitled "Remembering and Honoring Courage." Similarly, former Australian PM Julia Gillard paid tribute in a video address devoted to the Swedish diplomat.

Under Mr. Eurnekian's leadership, the IRWF has not shied away from difficult legal challenges. On August 5, 2014, after a protracted five-year-long battle, the Argentinean Supreme Court overturned a lower court judgment in favor of the grandson of an Argentinean diplomat, Luis Hernan Irigoyen, who had been stationed at the Argentine Embassy in Berlin during the Nazi regime. After the IRWF accused the diplomat of letting Argentine Jews die, the diplomat's grandson sued IRWF for damages. The high court decided that the IRWF will not have to indemnify the diplomat's grandson and that "even the harshest criticism has Constitutional Protection." Years before this unprecedented ruling, following a campaign by the IRWF, the then-Foreign Minister of Argentina, Mr. Rafael Bielsa, ordered the removal of a plaque that was placed inside the Argentine Chancellery in homage to 12 Argentine diplomats (Irigoyen was among them) that allegedly worked in favor of persecuted Jews. The IRWF proved that this honor was undeserved.

Mr. Eurnekian is an internationally recognized entrepreneur. He is CEO and President of Corporacion America, whose diverse holdings include management of more than 50 airports, infrastructure development, mining, financial services, energy, agricultural, wine and nano-technology and microchip production. He serves as First Vice-President of the Argentinean Chamber of Commerce and is a Member of the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce.

His work has earned him a variety of prestigious awards and prizes, including the following: "Businessman of the Year" from (Argentina 1995); "Leonardo Award" from the Italian Government (1999); "Man of the Year" from the Armenian General Benevolent Union (2010); "Knight of Holy Etchmiadzin Order" from the Catholicos of all Armenians, His Holiness Karekin II (2011); "Certificate of Appreciation" from UNDP for his role as an "advocate for sustainable development" in Armenia (2012); "Business for Peace Award" from the Oslo Business for Peace Foundation (2012); "Businessman of the Year" from CAMACOL—Latin Chambers of Commerce and Industry (2012); and "Businessman of the Year—Services Category" from the Argentine Businessmen Association (2012). In spite of his many commitments, Mr. Eurnekian did not hesitate for a single moment when offered the challenge to lead the IRWF—and he has led with tireless commitment, passion and ingenuity.

Now 82 years old, Eduardo Eurnekian continues his activism with passion and vigor. Although he has never received any compensation for his work on behalf of the IRWF, he has generously contributed his own funds to the mission of this important organization, whose membership includes more than 300 heads of state, Nobel Prize laureates and accomplished individuals from all walks of life. Indeed, the former Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, joined its ranks many years ago, and the IRWF is honored to include him, now known as Pope Francis, in its membership.

Together with Baruch Tenenbaum and in the spirit of the IRWF, Mr. Eurnekian is now working to create an Armenian cultural center